

City of Montague
City Hall
8778 Ferry Street
Montague, MI 49437
www.cityofmontague.org

September 2023
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Frequently Requested Info

City Hall Staff: 893-1155

Manager: Jeff Auch
Clerk: Kelly Markley
Utility Billing: Hannah Cross
Treasurer: Melissa Beegle
Zoning Administrator: Steve Coverly

Assessors: 893-1155
Dennis Burns
Cory Burns

Police Department: 893-0810

Chief: Rick Johnson
Sergeant: Tom Walicki
Secretary: Jennifer Wildfong

DPW Maintenance: 893-2235

Superintendent: Scott Beishuizen
Foreman: Alan Weesies
Sexton: Steve Lohman 855-1617

White Lake Area Building Inspection Board (WLABIB):

Permit Coordinator: Hannah Cross
Building Inspector:
Val Jensen II 638-0529
Electrical Inspector:
Jeff Johnson 329-4465
Mechanical & Plumbing Inspector:
Jim Callender 206-6563

Montague Fire District 893-3311

Fire Chief: Ron Anderson

Montague Library 893-2675
Librarian: Christina LeVey-Rowland

Montague Museum 894-6204
8717 Meade Street, Montague

City Council Meetings:
City Hall Council Chambers on the
third Monday of each month, at 5:30
p.m.

Mayor:
Tom Lohman 893-5545
tomlohman@yahoo.com

City Councilmembers:
Paul Schultz Bob Hires
Laura LaGuire Lisa Kiel
Susan Newhof Jeri Wonders

Montague Messenger

City Staff Changes: There have been several staff changes at Montague City Hall over the summer months. In August, we said farewell to Tina Ramthun as she retired after 20 years as Utility Billing Clerk and Permit Coordinator. Happy Retirement, Tina! New employee, Hannah Cross, is now diligently filling those roles at City Hall. Make sure to stop by and say hi! There have been changes at the Montague Police Department as well. Officer Brandon Tenhove is the newly appointed Student Resource Officer at Montague High School and Officer Dan Dice went from part-time to full-time officer this past June. Congratulations to you both!

Brush Pick Up: The City of Montague will offer brush pick up the week of **October 16th**. Materials must be placed roadside by **Sunday, October 15th** as only one trip will be made through the City. Residents may place their brush near the edge of the street the week prior to being picked up. Brush should not be more than four (4) inches in diameter — NO STUMPS, BRANCHES, or LOGS. No materials generated by, construction activities, commercial trimming, or tree removal will be collected. After this date, residents can dispose of brush at the White Lake Area Solid Waste Authority, 2100 Holton-Whitehall Road.

Historic Building Fundraiser: Help save the historic building within the City of Montague's Oak Grove Cemetery. There is an ongoing fundraiser for the 103 year old local landmark. Charitable contributions to the City of Montague for this project are tax-deductible and there is an initial dollar-for-dollar match for all contributions. Contact City Hall for more information.



Oak Grove Cemetery: All spring and summer flower decorations are to be removed from gravesites by October 15th or they will be disposed of by City personnel. Winter decorations and wreaths may be placed on gravesites after November 15th.



Pumpkinfest: Pumpkinfest will be held Saturday, October 14th in downtown Montague from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Halloween Trick-or-Treating: Trick-or-treating will be held Tuesday, October 31st from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Holiday Walk: The Holiday Walk will be held Friday, November 17th from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, November 18th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be a tree-lighting ceremony and caroling in the Artisan Market Village on Friday evening.

70th Annual White Lake Area Christmas Parade: The Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, December 2nd at 2 p.m. starting in Whitehall.

Downtown Development Authority: There have been noticeable improvements in the downtown over the summer. The DDA held a Sculptural Kiosk contest this past spring for two artisan-created informational kiosks for the downtown. Thank you to the winners of the contest, Stephen Niezgoda and Creed McPherson of Sunset Artisans, for their beautiful designs. The new kiosks are located on the northeast corner of Ferry and Dowling Streets and at the Artisan Market Village on Water Street. The DDA is holding another contest through the end of September for the naming of the new social district and public space in the alley that runs between Dowling and Spring Streets. Check out the details at www.cityofmontague.org! The DDA also provided funding for improvements to the brick exteriors of the buildings on the east side of Ferry Street. These much-needed improvements keep our downtown looking beautiful!

Buttermilk Creek Park, located downtown on the north side of Dowling Hill, also received an upgrade over the summer via grant funds awarded by the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) and Toyota America. Buttermilk Creek Park features a greenspace for sports in the summer that doubles as an ice skating rink in the winter, a warming shed, firepit, picnic tables, and now an accessible nature trail! The grand opening for the Buttermilk Creek Park Nature Trail will take place on Saturday, September 23rd at 1 p.m.



Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety: In an effort to promote a more walkable and cyclable City, yield-to-pedestrian signs and solar-powered pedestrian crossing signals have become a frequent sight around town. Yielding to pedestrians in a designated crosswalk, on foot or bicycle, is state law and is enforced within the City. **Pedestrians also have a responsibility at these crossings. Individuals should not automatically enter the crosswalk, but also yield to cars and only proceed if a vehicle has sufficient time to brake and yield.** A helpful safety tip: always make eye contact with an individual driver to be sure they intend to stop before proceeding.

Montague Farmers Market & Artisan Market Village: The Farmers Market and Artisan Market Village both had a successful summer season and remain open on Saturdays throughout September and October, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Both will be open for Pumpkinfest on Saturday, October 14th. The City of Montague is continuing to facilitate food assistance programs (Bridge / P-EBT Cards and Double UP Food Bucks) in exchange for tokens at the market. We are pleased that the program has helped local patrons double their purchasing power for produce from local farmers and vendors who are participating through the Montague Farmers Market. Senior Coupons for the Montague Farmers Market made their debut this season and were very popular with senior residents in the participating municipalities of City of Montague, Whitehall Township, and Fruitland Township. The funds for this program were made available through Senior Millage monies allocated to each municipality in the county. Stay tuned for more information on this program for the 2024 market season. A big thank you to all the local vendors and patrons for making the Montague Farmers Market and Artisan Market Village the place to be all season long!

November General Election: The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 7th. Items on the ballot include the mayoral seat, three Council seats, and a millage for Montague Area Public Schools. Voters can register to vote or sign up for an Absentee Ballot with the City Clerk during regular business hours or online with the Secretary of State at: Michigan.gov/VOTE. In-person voting takes place November 7th, in the lower-level of City Hall in the Council Chambers, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day. Pre-election weekend hours will be held Sunday, November 5th from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Additional Information—Watch the City Sign, Facebook, and Website: Still looking for more information? Follow us on Facebook to view additional information and upcoming events. The City has four Facebook pages! Including: City of Montague, Montague Farmers Market, The Artisan Market Village, and Cruz'in. Follow them all and watch the City sign and website for announcements and reminders.

Save Gas, Save a Trip, Pay Online: It's safe and simple to take care of your payments due to the City of Montague at: www.cityofmontague.org. Water bills, taxes, boat launch permits, building and trade permit applications, as well as reservations for City facilities can all be submitted and paid for on the website.